

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 080371
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-PSBRIDGES

APPROVED BY: S/S- MR BRIDGES

-----091731Z 014451 /42

O 091718Z APR 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 080371

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM CAIRO DTD 09 APR 77 DTG

O 091521Z APR 77 QTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 6067

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG MO MARR

SUBJ: SHABA INVASION: INTERVENTION OF MOROCCAN AND EGYPTIAN
FORCES

REF: A) CAIRO 5983/081226Z APR 77 B) STATE 80323

1. DATT MET WITH DMI TODAY AND DMI CONFIRMED THAT EGYPTIAN
MILITARY DELEGATION WAS ASSESSING SITUATION IN ZAIRE AND WAS NOT
AN ADVANCE PARTY FOR EGYPTIAN COMMITMENT OF TROOPS. EGYPTIAN
DELEGATION IS DUE BACK NEXT FRIDAY (15 APRIL). THE RESULTS OF
THIS MISSION WILL PROVIDE NECESSARY DATA UPON WHICH SENIOR LEVEL
OF GOE CAN BASE GO OR NO-GO DECISION. DMI SAID "WERE ARE NOT SURE

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WHAT THE TERRAIN IS LIKE. IF IT IS JUNGLE WE CAN'T SEND OUR TROOPS
BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT TRAINED TO FIGHT IN THAT ENVIRONMENT.
AS MENTIONED IN REFTEL DATT WILL DEBRIEF DMI AND REPORT WHEN
EGYPTIAN TEAM RETURNS.

COMMENT: PROSPECT OF GETTING INVOLVED WITH SOVIET BACKED CUBAN TROOPS
IN ZAIRE BOTHERED DMI. HE WAS ALSO DISAPPOINTED THAT ZAIRE WAS SO
PUBLIC WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SUPPORT - TODAY'S CAIRO NEWSPAPERS

CLAIM MOROCCAN TROOPS ENTERING ZAIRE. ACCORDING TO DMI
THIS PUBLICITY WILL PROVIDE SOVIETS AND CUBANS RATIONALE
TO SUPPORT KATANGAN REBELS. THIS ATTITUDE REFLECTS THE
EGYPTIAN PREFERENCE FOR EXTREME SECRECY IN ALL THINGS
MILITARY AND WAS PROBABLY PROPELLED BY HIS CONCERNS ABOUT
SOVIET BACKED CUBANS.

2. DURING CHAT AT AIRPORT WHILE AWAITING SADAT'S
ARRIVAL AFTERNOON APRIL 9 MINISTER WAR
GAMASY VOLUNTEERED TO CHARGE THAT YESTERDAY REUTERS
HAD INQUIRED ABOUT REPORT FROM KINSHASA THAT EGYPT
WOULD BE SENDING TROOPS. GAMASY HAD AUTHORIZED
RESPONSE THAT SMALL MILITARY SURVEY TEAM HAD BEEN SENT
BUT STORY ABOUT TROOPS WAS WRONG. GAMASY GAVE
STRONG IMPRESSION THAT EGYPT DID NOT PLAN TO SEND
TROOPS, THOUGH CHARGE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY ASK HIM
ABOUT EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS IN VIEW OF INSTRUCTIONS IN
REF B. GAMASY DID NOT ASK FOR OUR VIEWS ON SUBJECT.
MATTHEWS
UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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